



BIOGRAPHY

Command Sergeant Major Eric J. Olsen

CSM Eric J. Olsen was born in Cranston, Rhode Island to Joseph and Marjorie Olsen on 12 February 1973. He resided in Rhode Island until his senior year of High School at which time he moved to Homosassa, Florida and graduated from Crystal River High School in 1991.

CSM Olsen entered the United States Army on 11 September 1991 and attended Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Bliss, Texas for Man Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS) Crewmember (16S). Upon completion of AIT, he was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery (HHB), 5th Battalion (BN), 5th Air Defense Artillery (ADA), Camp Stanton, Korea and worked in the Air Battle Management Operations Center (ABMOC) within the S3 section.

After spending a year in Korea, he attended the Avenger Crewmember (14S) course at Fort Bliss, Texas with a follow on duty assignment to HHB, 31st ADA Brigade (BDE) at Fort Hood, Texas working for the III Corps Air Defense Element (ADE). He spent approximately one year in the ADE and was moved to Alpha Battery, 2nd BN, 2nd ADA as an Avenger Team Chief and Avenger Section Sergeant.

In 1996, he returned to Fort Bliss, Texas and was assigned as an Instructor/Writer in Charlie Battery, 2nd BN, 6th ADA. CSM Olsen spent roughly one year in Charlie Battery and attended the Forward Line of Sight – Heavy Crewmember (14R) course and became an Instructor/Writer for Bravo Battery, 2nd BN, 6th ADA. While serving at Fort Bliss, he had the honor and privilege of being inducted into the prestigious Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Upon completion of his tour at Fort Bliss, he was assigned to Bravo Battery, 1st BN, 4th ADA, 1st Armored Division at McCully Barracks in Wackernheim, Germany as a Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle (BSFV) Squad Leader. He then attended the Bradley Master Gunner School at Fort Benning, Georgia and became the BN Master Gunner and later, the Platoon Sergeant for 1st Platoon, Alpha Battery, 1st BN, 4th ADA.

After serving three years in Germany, CSM Olsen was assigned as an Observer Controller (O/C) at the National Training Center (NTC) on the Bronco Team coaching, teaching, and mentoring Air Defense Batteries, Platoons, Sections and Teams from 2002 to 2004.

In 2004, he returned, once again, to Fort Bliss, Texas and was given the opportunity to lead Soldiers as a First Sergeant (1SG) for Delta Battery, 5th BN, 52nd ADA in the 11th ADA BDE. From 2004 through 2008, he served as the 1SG for three different batteries: Delta Battery, 5th BN, 52nd ADA; Alpha Battery 1st BN, 44th ADA; and Bravo Battery, 1st BN, 43rd ADA.

CSM Olsen attended the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy (USASMA) Class 59 from 2008-2009. After completion of USASMA, he was assigned to HHB, 69th ADA BDE at Fort Hood, Texas where he served as the Operations Sergeant Major. While assigned to HHB 69th ADA BDE, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from July of 2010 through June of 2011. In July of 2012, he moved to his current assignment as the G3 Sergeant Major for the 32d Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) at Fort Bliss, Texas.

CSM Olsen's military education includes the Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC), Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course (BNCOC), Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course (ANCOC), the First Sergeant's Course, and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy Class 59.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (8 OLC), the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Good Conduct Medal (7th Award), the National Defense Service Medal (Campaign Star), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (#4), the Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon (#4).

CSM Olsen has been married to his wife, Stacy, for 17 years and they have 4 children-Sydney (age 11), Riley (age 9), Alex (age 3), and Avery (age 1).

